

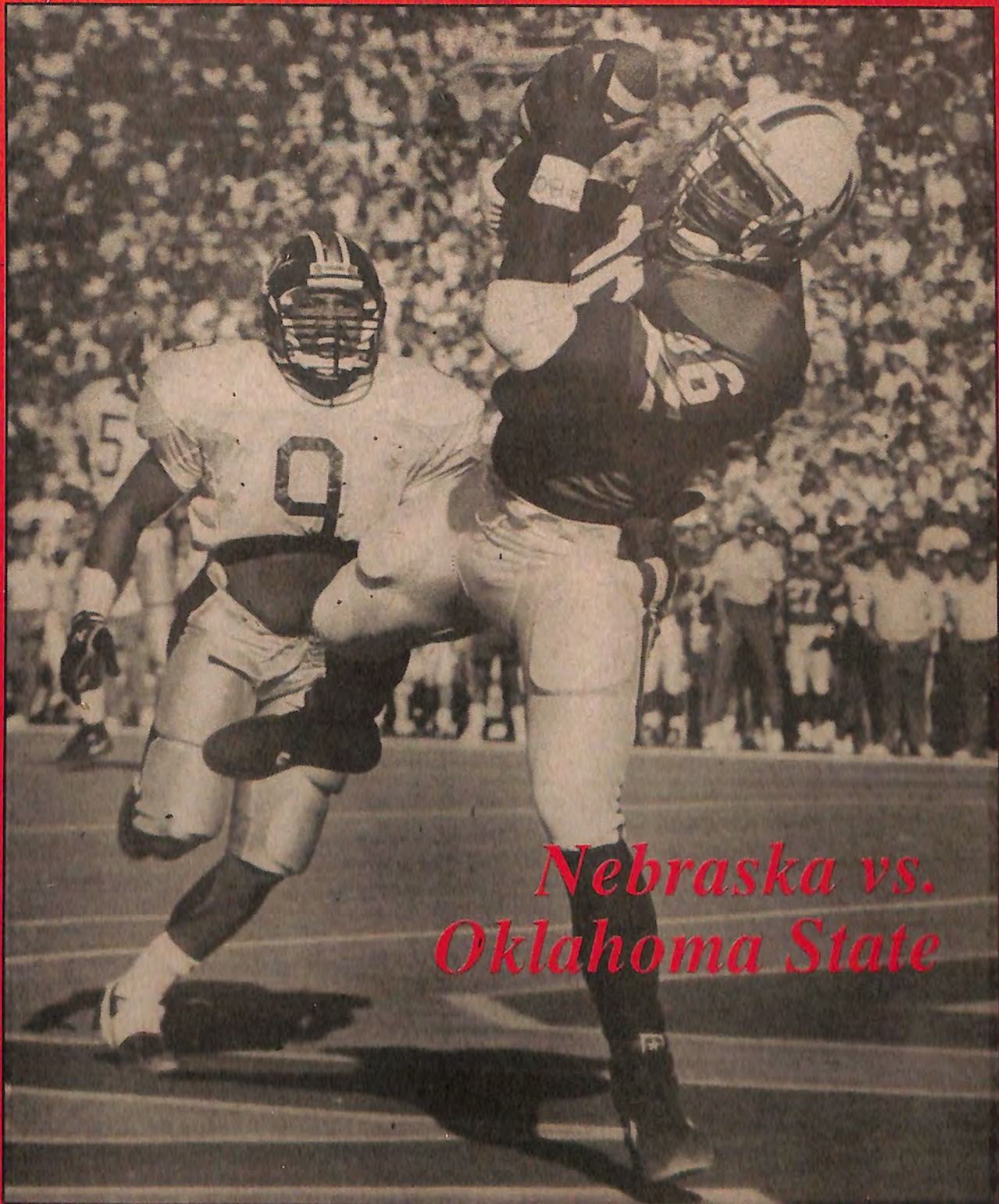
FIRST DOWN

A Daily Nebraskan Publication

Magazine

Saturday, October 20, 1990

Vol. 18 No. 6



*Nebraska vs.
Oklahoma State*

Al Schaben/First Down

NU preparing for anything

By Chris Hopfensperger
First Down Reporter

The Huskers are bracing themselves.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, speaking at his weekly press conference Tuesday, said the Cornhusker offense is prepared for a variety of Oklahoma State defenses.

"The least predictable feature of the Oklahoma State team will be their defense," Osborne said. "Occasionally they have simply sold out on the blitz."

The Cowboys' game earlier this season against Oklahoma is the best indicator, Osborne said, because the Sooners offense is similar to Nebraska's.

Against the Sooners, Oklahoma State blitzed on eighty to ninety percent of the downs, taking a 17-14 lead into the third quarter, before falling 31-17. Osborne said that score is misleading.

"They really shut Oklahoma down pretty well," he said. "That's a pretty good indicator that they can play with good people and play well enough to win."

"Without a few mistakes they would have won that game."

Several individuals stand out on the Cowboy team that has managed only a 2-4 record, with wins over Tulsa and Northern Iowa.

Running back Gerald Hudson, who once played ahead of Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders, is second in the Big Eight and fourth in the nation in rushing with 807 total yards and a 134.5

On the cover . . .

Tight end Johnny Mitchell's second career catch was this 15-year reception for a touchdown. See story pg. 3.

yards per game average.

"Hudson, I would assume, would be the best running back we have faced at any time this season," Osborne said.

Curtis Mayfield, the Cowboys' leading receiver, is fourth in the conference with 60.8 yards per game.

"Curtis Mayfield is an outstanding player," Osborne said. "He got behind us a couple times last year."

"I think he's probably as good as there is in the Big Eight."

Osborne admitted, however, that the coaching staff is "a little bit in a quandary as to who they're going to play at quarterback."

Senior Chris Smith started Oklahoma State's first two games, but hasn't seen any action since.

In his absence, sophomore Earl Wheeler, who threw an 85-yard touchdown pass last year against Nebraska, has led the Cowboys. Wheeler has completed 49 of 97 passes for 654 yards, good enough for eleventh in the Big Eight in total offense.

Behind Wheeler is junior Kenny Ford, who saw his first substantial playing time this season last week against Kansas State. Ford played the entire second half, completing 5 of 13 passes and rushing for 24 yards on five carries.

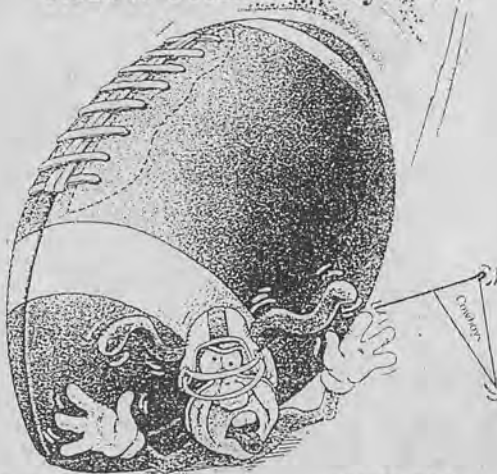
"If Wheeler plays he's a little bit more of a drop-back passer type," Osborne said. "Kenny Ford is more like some of our quarterbacks."

"Kenny's a good passer, but he's also very quick and a very good option quarterback."

That, combined with the threat of the blitz, poses a problem for Nebraska, Osborne said.

"You have to prepare for a lot of things," Osborne said. "In four days' time it's hard to cover it all, but we're trying."

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34 Nebraska Union
1400 R Street

Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0448

First Down Co-Editors Paul Domeier, 472-2588
Darran Fowler, 472-1765
Daily Nebraskan Editor Eric Pfanner
General Manager Dan Shattil
Production Manager Katherine Policky
Advertising Manager Loren Meirose
Sales Manager Todd Sears
Account Executives Gretchen Markel
Jay Cruse

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Mitchell picked up where Garrett left off

By Chris Hopfensperger
First Down Reporter

Tight end Johnny Mitchell did something last Saturday that the man he replaced has not done — catch a pass.

Mitchell was one of the back ups to regular starter William Washington who missed the Missouri game because of an ankle injury.

In the Cornhuskers' 69-21 thrashing of Missouri, Mitchell, a freshman who had to wait a year to play because he was a Proposition 48 casualty, caught his first of two passes late in the second quarter.

"When the ball was in the air, it was like, 'It's coming. You've asked for this for the longest time,'" Mitchell recalled. "It looked like it would never get there. It was just real slow."

The pass went for 36 yards, putting him one catch and 36 yards ahead of Washington, who earned second-team All-Big Eight honors in 1989 despite not catching a pass.

Washington a sophomore, played in 11 varsity games last season, and five this year but still is without a reception. Oh, he can catch, but it has just worked out that the Huskers have not gone to the tight end when he has been in the game.

Mitchell said his catch was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time, a situation that has yet to work out for Washington.

Washington used to split time with Chris Garrett — the guy who used to be in the right place at the right time — until he went down with a broken ankle. Garrett, a junior, has caught seven passes, six for touchdowns.

"I had to answer a call (Saturday)," Mitchell said. "With Chris Garrett being out, none of the tight ends had caught a pass."

Mitchell replaced Garrett fine. He caught a second pass Satur-

day — a 15-yard touchdown strike from quarterback Mike Grant early in the fourth quarter.

Coach Tom Osborne said he was happy with the play of both Mitchell and the guy he split time with last Saturday — junior Daryl Leise.

"They had to carry the load," Osborne said. "Daryl blocked very well. He's not going to show up on the scoreboard anywhere, but he had a good ball game."

Mitchell, who has been called the best natural receiver by Nebraska coaches, said the talent is something that, of course, comes naturally.

"It's just a gift God blessed me with," he said. "That's something you don't practice."



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Offensive Starters

17	 SE	Curtis Mayfield
38	 TE	Scott Copeland
54	 LT	Josh Arrott
69	 LG	Brian Bobo
61	 C	Pete Surette
65	 RG	Scott Hall
63	 RT	Scott Webb
14	 FL	Robert Kirksey
15	 QB	Earl Wheeler
26	 FB	Cecil Wilson
23	 TB	Gerald Hudson
25	 K	Cary Blanchard

Defensive Starters

83	 LE	Jason Gildon
55	 LT	Ruben Oliver
52	 RT	Stacey Satterwhite
2	 RE	George Bright
47	 LB	Mike Woolridge
44	 LB	Clarence Nobles
7	 LB	Richie Ansley
1	 C	Mike Clark
48	 SS	Jay Fleischman
35	 FS	Charles Verner
5	 C	Joe King
25	 P	Cary Blanchard

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85	 TE	Daryl Leise
78	 LT	Tom Punt
66	 LG	Jim Wanek
58	 C	David Edeal
75	 RG	Will Shields
76	 RT	Brian Boerboom
22	 WB	Nate Turner
2	 QB	Mickey Joseph
25	 FB	Omar Soto
23	 IB	Leodis Flowers
44	 K	Gregg Barrios

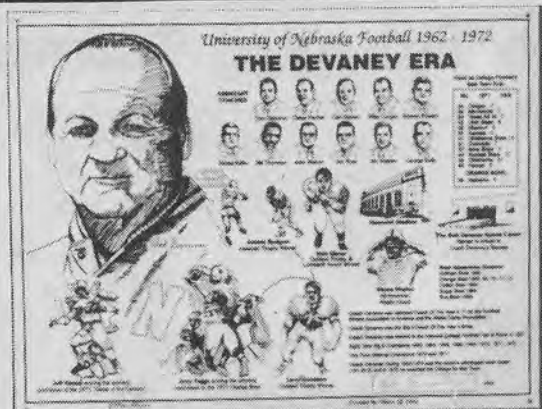
Defensive Starters

93	 OLB	Travis Hill
56	 LT	Joe Sims
97	 MG	Pat Engelbert
57	 RT	Kenny Walker
88	 OLB	Mike Croel
99	 ILB	Mike Petko
40	 ILB	Pat Tyrance
38	 CB	Bruce Pickens
5	 CB	Tahaun Lewis
17	 SS	Reggie Cooper
8	 FS	Tyrone Byrd
47	 P	Mike Stigge



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Jones: NU has the momentum, Colorado the talent

By Paul Domeier
First Down Co-Editor

Oklahoma State found the worst time to go on NCAA probation. The rest of the Big Eight appears to be getting better.

"I really thought up until last week — and I still think so, though not as much — that there's not as much difference between one and eight as there has been," Cowboy coach Pat Jones said.

On Saturday, Nebraska showed its distance from the second-division teams by crushing Missouri 69-21, while Oklahoma State

put itself in danger of finishing eighth with a 23-17 loss at Kansas State.

But the week before, the balance of power did appear to be shifting. Oklahoma State pushed Oklahoma, Nebraska struggled to beat Kansas State, Iowa State and Kansas tied and Colorado beat Missouri only because of The Fifth Down.

"Right now Nebraska is the healthiest and has the momentum, though Colorado on sheer athletic ability probably has better talent," Jones said.

Oklahoma State, 2-4, was a top-10 team in the mid-1980s and featured stars like defensive tackle Leslie O'Neal, quarterback Mike Gundy, receiver Hart Lee Dykes, running back Thurman Thomas and Heisman Trophy winner Barry Sanders.

Jones said the Cowboys swing toward the bottom is a combination of the probation, which began in 1989 and will end after 1991, and the natural cycle of college football. Nebraska always is good and Oklahoma State almost always is good, Jones said, but the rest of the teams go up and down.

"All of college football is kind of going to the middle," he said.

And that has pushed the young Cowboys toward the bottom. Oklahoma State is 0-2 in the Big Eight and still has to go to Colorado.

The past three losses have been close, though. Texas Christian beat Oklahoma State 31-21, Oklahoma won 31-17 after a close first half and then came the Kansas State game.

Jones said right now he is just trying to keep his squad from getting frustrated. If the team was older and had higher expectations, he said, the Cowboys probably would be getting down.

The Cowboys are very young, though. Jones said 23 of the 60 players that went to Kansas State are in their first or second years.

"Any rebuilding has got to be slow," Jones said. "We'll be back. I know that, I just can't say when."

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Nebraska Cornhuskers

No.	Players	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
1	Mike Grant	QB	6-2	210	Jr.	33	Tyrone Hughes	WB	5-9	175	So.	69	Dave Jensen	OG	6-5	275	So.
2	Mickey Joseph	QB	5-11	180	Jr.	34	Trev Alberts	OLB	6-4	220	Fr.	70	Jamie Liewer	DT	6-5	260	So.
3	Tom Werner	WB	5-9	150	So.	35	Scott Kurtz	ILB	5-11	220	Sr.	72	John Clarke	DT	6-2	250	Jr.
3	Tyrone Legette	CB	5-9	180	Jr.	37	Robert Glantz	FB	5-11	220	Jr.	72	John Parrella	DT	6-4	275	So.
4	George Achola	IB	5-11	195	Jr.	36	Brian Pollard	S	5-10	190	Jr.	73	Steve Engstrom	OT	6-3	290	Sr.
5	Tahaun Lewis	CB	5-11	170	Sr.	38	Bruce Pickens	CB	5-11	190	Sr.	74	Scott Peterson	OG	6-4	240	So.
6	Brad Devall	WB	5-9	180	Sr.	40	Pat Tyrance	ILB	6-2	240	Sr.	75	Will Shields	OG	6-2	260	So.
8	Tyrone Byrd	FS	5-11	165	So.	41	Tim Johnk	FB	5-10	215	Jr.	76	Brian Boerboom	OT	6-7	285	Jr.
9	Robert Hicks	CB	5-10	185	Sr.	44	Gregg Barrios	K	5-8	170	Sr.	77	Terry Eyman	OT	6-6	265	Sr.
10	Keithen McCant	QB	6-2	205	Jr.	45	Jon Crippen	CB	5-10	170	Sr.	78	Tom Punt	OT	6-8	285	Sr.
11	Mark Dowse	SE	6-0	180	Jr.	46	Brian Mohnsen	ILB	6-3	240	Jr.	80	Chris Garrett	TE	6-3	240	Jr.
12	Jerry Dunlap	QB	5-11	195	Sr.	47	Mike Stigge	P	6-1	185	So.	81	Lance Bobolz	WB	5-10	170	Sr.
13	Byron Bennett	P-K	5-11	180	Fr.	48	Mike Anderson	ILB	6-1	230	Fr.	82	Dan Pleasant	SE	5-9	175	Jr.
14	Jeff Lang	K	5-9	175	Fr.	49	Paul Wightman	ILB	6-1	220	So.	83	Mike Vedral	TE	6-3	225	So.
15	Tom Haase	QB	6-0	180	Jr.	51	Brent Pick	OT	6-5	265	Sr.	84	Rick Wendland	OLB	6-1	215	Sr.
16	Vernon Powell	SE	5-10	160	So.	52	Matt Penland	ILB	6-0	220	So.	85	Daryl Leise	TE	6-2	230	Jr.
17	Reggie Cooper	SS	6-3	210	Sr.	53	Bill Ziegelbein	C	6-5	240	Jr.	86	Johnny Mitchell	TE	6-5	250	Fr.
18	Jon Bostick	SE	6-2	185	Jr.	54	Troy Branch	ILB	6-2	220	Fr.	86	J. Spitzberger	OLB	6-1	220	Sr.
19	Keith Mackell	SE	5-10	160	Sr.	55	Terris Chorney	C	6-1	250	So.	87	Dan Svehla	OLB	6-0	230	Sr.
21	Will Thomas	SS	6-0	175	Jr.	56	Joe Sims	DT	6-3	280	Sr.	88	Mike Croel	OLB	6-3	225	Sr.
22	Nate Turner	WB	6-2	225	Jr.	57	Kenny Walker	DT	6-4	240	Sr.	89	W. Washington	TE	6-2	245	So.
23	Leodis Flowers	IB	5-11	200	Jr.	58	David Edeal	C	6-2	260	Sr.	90	L. Anderson	DT	6-4	260	Sr.
24	Curtis Cotton	SS	6-1	210	Jr.	59	Ray Riefenrath	OT	6-5	290	Jr.	91	Andy Zacharias	ILB	6-1	230	Jr.
25	Omar Soto	FB	5-11	220	Jr.	61	Erik Wiegert	OG	6-4	270	Jr.	93	Travis Hill	OLB	6-2	225	So.
26	Lance Lewis	FB	6-0	205	So.	62	David Noonan	MG	6-3	260	Fr.	94	Brian Brown	DT	6-6	260	Jr.
27	Derek Brown	IB	5-10	175	Fr.	63	Greg Koellner	MG	6-3	280	Jr.	95	Paul Brungardt	DT	6-7	260	Sr.
28	Eric Anderson	CB	5-8	175	Sr.	64	Chris Zyzda	OG	6-2	255	So.	96	David White	OLB	6-2	225	So.
29	Scott Baldwin	IB	6-1	200	So.	65	Jeff Chaney	OG	6-2	250	Jr.	97	Pat Engelbert	MG	6-2	250	Jr.
31	Steve Carmer	FS	6-1	205	Jr.	66	Jim Wanek	OG	6-1	245	Sr.	98	Mike Jefferson	MG	6-2	280	Fr.
32	Lamont White	WB	5-9	175	Jr.	67	Jim Scott	C	6-2	245	So.	99	Mike Pelko	ILB	6-2	230	Jr.

OSU Oklahoma State Cowboys

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.
1	Mike Clark	CB	5-11	198	Jr.	31	Devin Jones	LB	6-2	221	Sr.	65	SCott Hall	OL	6-2	280	Fr.
2	George Bright	LB	6-2	211	So.	31	Bryan Fugett	TB	5-6	190	So.	66	Joe Bob Warner	L	6-4	263	So.
3	Charles Johnson	WR	5-9	184	Fr.	32	Roger Franks	FB	6-0	238	Fr.	67	Chad Brown	OL	6-5	230	Fr.
4	Chris Calhoun	LB	5-11	201	Fr.	33	Rod Sanders	TB	6-0	211	Fr.	68	Keith Roller	OT	6-3	273	So.
5	Joe King	CB	6-2	201	Sr.	35	Charles Verner	FS	6-1	200	Fr.	69	Brian Bobo	OG	6-2	269	Jr.
6	Mike Little	QB	6-0	199	So.	36	Scott Harmon	DB	5-10	170	Fr.	70	Jim LeGrange		6-3	273	
7	Richie Ansley	LB	6-1	221	Fr.	38	Scott Copeland	TE	6-4	238	So.	72	Joel Fry	OT	6-5	291	Sr.
8	Russ Claybrook	QB	6-0	188	Fr.	39	Fred Gaines	FS	6-1	218	Sr.	73	Brandon Boyter	OG	6-3	267	Fr.
9	Terry Henley	DB	5-10	189	So.	40	Brad Norman	RB	5-9	175	Fr.	74	Ryan Roberts	LB	6-0	224	Fr.
10	Kenny Ford	QB	6-0	196	Jr.	40	Ronald Kelly		6-0	193		75	Mike Butler	OT	6-3	278	Fr.
11	Brent Scott	QB	5-4	190	Fr.	41	Mark Walker	TE	6-3	242	Jr.	79	A. Greenlee	OL	6-1	305	Fr.
12	Alex Goodpaster	QB	6-4	190	Fr.	42	Kevin Blake	SS	6-1	196	Jr.	81	Shannon Colbert	WR	6-1	183	Fr.
13	Chris Smith	QB	6-0	196	Sr.	45	Tracy Price	LB	6-1	236	Fr.	82	Richard Taulman		6-0	182	
14	Rober Kirksey	WR	6-0	193	Jr.	46	Darrell McCowan		5-9	192		82	Anthony Gardner	DE	6-2	238	Fr.
15	Earl Wheller	QB	6-1	206	So.	47	Mike Wollridge	LB	6-3	224	So.	83	Jason Gildon	DE	6-4	215	Fr.
16	Todd Fisher	CB	5-11	175	So.	48	Jay Fleischman	SS	5-11	198	Jr.	84	Scott Cathey	TE	5-11	223	Sr.
17	Curtis Mayfield	WR	6-0	185	Sr.	50	Roger Lewis	LB	5-11	226	Fr.	85	Greg Williams	WR	5-11	180	Jr.
18	Oliver McDade	FS	6-3	193	So.	51	Rodrick Arthur	OG	6-1	282	Jr.	86	Scott Wilson	TE	6-5	248	Fr.
19	Mark Cheatwood	WR	5-9	155	Fr.	52	S. Satterwhite	DT	6-6	268	Jr.	87	Scott Gregory	TE	6-1	243	So.
20	Brad McCone	WR	6-2	187	Sr.	54	Josh Arrott	OT	6-5	268	Jr.	88	Roland Scott	DT	6-2	266	Sr.
21	Russell Berrien	RB	5-10	175	Fr.	55	Ruben Oliver	NG	5-11	266	Sr.	89	David Brooks	DL	6-0	261	So.
22	Ronnie Fisher	TB	5-11	196	So.	56	Clarence Nobles	LB	6-0	233	Fr.	92	Tony Smith	B	6-2	225	Fr.
23	Gerald Hudson	TB	5-9	207	Fr.	58	Brent Porterfield	DL	6-0	238	So.	93	Tyler Williams	DE	6-3	207	Fr.
24	Vernon Brown	TB	6-0	219	Sr.	59	Eric Garmond	DL	6-2	255	So.	94	Wendell Gaines	DE	6-5	210	Fr.
25	Cary Blanchard	K	6-1	208	Sr.	60	Jason Kirkland	OG	6-4	240	Fr.	95	Derek Jones	TE	6-2	225	Fr.
26	Cecil Wilson	FB	5-10	226	Fr.	61	Pete Surette	OL	6-2	266	Jr.	96	Greg Mundy	NG	6-1	240	Fr.
28	Demitir Markham	WR	6-0	170	Fr.	62	Matt Jose	OG	6-4	290	Fr.	97	Darren Burns	LB	5-11	214	So.
29	Brent Parker	NG	6-0	197	Sr.	63	Scott Webb	OG	6-4	287	Sr.	98	Roddy Wortham	LB	5-11	194	Fr.
30	Line Mbroh		5-10	181		64	Ozzie Zuaznabar	L	6-4	245	Fr.	99	Mike Filson	DT	6-5	273	Sr.



Butch Ireland/First Down

Quarterback Mickey Joseph prances in the end zone after scoring against Missouri last Saturday. Joseph rushed for four touchdowns and passed for another in being named the Big Eight Offensive Player of the Week for the second time this season.

Osborne expressed displeasure

Joseph used prep style tactics on Tigers

By Paul Domeier
First Down Co-editor

Mickey Joseph celebrated Homecoming, a time for alumni to return to their alma mater, by reverting to his prep school football style: Get the ball and go.

Last Saturday against Missouri, it paid off with four rushing touchdowns, another passing and a career-high 95 rushing yards as the Cornhuskers won, 69-21.

On one third quarter play, Joseph ran to the right, stopped, ran to the left and into Nebraska guard Jim Wanek, then turned and headed up the middle for a 39-yard gain, the longest of his career.

But to Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, running impromptu reverses, however successful, is a high school habit to be left behind like drag racing and toilet-paper raiding.

"He told me I was going back to my high school days," Joseph said, "so I wanted to get in there and get back to my college days."

The drive ended when Joseph tried to force a touchdown pass and instead threw an interception, one Osborne said will be hard to forget since Joseph could have run

the ball.

"I think he was trying to do something spectacular," Osborne said. "He still needs to play within the system a little bit."

When Joseph went to the sidelines,

— 66 —

He (Osborne) told me I was going back to my high school days. So I wanted to get in there and get back to my college days.

Joseph

99 —

Osborne expressed his displeasure with the ad libs.

"We've settled that," Osborne said. "I don't think he'll do that again."

Joseph, who was named the Big Eight offensive player of the week for the second time this season, returned for one possession and led the Huskers to a touchdown, the seventh in his nine series. The drive ended on a spectacular option that also could have a coach saying, "Good, but . . ."

While Joseph was faking the handoff to fullback Lance Lewis, a Missouri defender busted through and hit Lewis' arm. Lewis grabbed the ball to make sure no one fumbled.

Joseph wanted it back.

"I was telling him, 'Let go!'" Joseph said. "Finally I pulled it out of there."

And immediately pitched it to I-back Derek Brown. The Tiger defenders, lulled by the slow-developing play, couldn't catch Brown as he danced 23-yards down the sideline into the end zone.

Joseph said he should have let Lewis keep the ball instead of risking a turnover.

File that away for future reference. Touchdown Nebraska.

But Joseph, who has nine touchdowns for the season and moved into Nebraska's scoring top 50 with his 13th career score, repented of his rash decisions, saying he beat the odds.

"It might work one out of 10 times, but it worked (Saturday)," he said.

In true, mature, collegiate style, Joseph deferred to the experienced-based recommendations of Osborne.

"Coach has been around a long time, so he knows what he's doing," Joseph said.